M O S Q U I T I A.

A FAMILY OF WOOLWA INDIANS ON THE BLUEFIELDS RIVER.

The spirit of enterprise inherent in the Anglo-Saxon race has extended the influence of Great Britain far beyond the bounds of her colonial empire, insomuch that it reigns paramount in places hitherto scarcely known to the generality of her population.

Among these, Mosquitia, or, as it is commonly called, the Mosquito Shore, affords more than ordinary interest, not less from its posi-

THE KING OF MOSQUITIA IN COUNCIL.

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tion and natural productions, than its former possession by, and present attachment to, this country.

Situated to the south of the Bay of Honduras, and forming the western shore of that of Guatemala, its position is central with respect to the trade of the West Indies, Mexico, and the United States, as well as that of Southern America. It consists for the most part of Table Land, nearly 5000 feet above the level of the sea, backed by the mountainous range in which are the famous gold and silver mines of Costa Rica, on the south, and Honduras on the north.

The soil is remarkably fertile, producing two, and sometimes three crops of corn, and grapes annually; sugar, indigo, tobacco, cocoa, and cotton, may be cultivated to any extent; mahogany of the largest size, and logwood abound, and cochineal is found in great quantity. The climate is salubrious, excepting in the uncultivated lowlands on the coast. It has several navigable rivers and excellent harbours. Fish are taken in profusion both in the fresh and salt waters, and the abundance of turtle led Mr. Gunter to select it as the most suitable locality for his establishment for preserving the flesh of that desire of epicures.

To this much favoured country the aboriginal inhabitants retired after they had been driven from other parts by the Spaniards. Here they have maintained themselves in a rude independence under the rule of the head of the Mosquito tribe; but after the conquest of Jamaica by Cromwell, they, prompted by an ancient friendship, which had originated in the time of the Buccaneers, in the reign of Charles the Second, placed themselves under the protection of England, and acted as allies against the Spaniards. During the war of 1739, the trade of this country had become so important that it was determined to hold it under the immediate sovereignty of Great Britain; and a superintendent was appointed, who erected a fort, hoisted the national flag, and a settlement being formed on the Black River, a clergyman was sent out under the auspices of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. Yet, notwithstanding the European population had risen to near 1400 in —though not till after much debate—ceded to Spain in 1778, and, in consequence, abandoned.

The Spaniards, however, being offensive to the native population, were never able to obtain any footing in the country; and since that time the ruling Chief, with the title of King, has been under the protection of the British Government, and been crowned at Jamaica or Balize by its officials, in Church and State.

The present King, George Augustus Frederic, was crowned at the latter place by the Rev. Mr. Newport, Commissary to the Bishop of Jamaica, in the presence of Colonel Fancourt, Superintendent, and Patrick Walker, Esq., Agent and Consul-General for the British Government, at the Mosquito Shore, on the 7th May, 1845, being then about fifteen years old.

The drawing represents the King in Council, his pages behind him; on his right, P. Walker, Esq.; on his left, George Hodgson, Commandant at Bluefields; and at the bottom of the table sits Captain Watson, a gentleman educated in the naval service of the East India Company, but who last year crossed the Atlantic in his yacht, about forty tons burthen, and has settled in the country—the little vessel now bearing the Mosquitian flag under his command.

Mosquitia may contain above 40,000 square miles, and its coast is considerably over 400 miles in length; the claim of its Monarch to the whole extent, from Cape Cameroon to the Chiriqui Lagoon, is considered tenable; although the Spanish geographers place its southern limit at St. Juan de Nicaragua, on the river so lately selected by Prince Louis Napoleon as the most eligible by which to connect the Atlantic with the Pacific.

The population may be about 20,000. At Bluefields, where alone Europeans are now settled, there are 300 Creoles and Browns, and 400 Negroes to 120 Europeans and 16 citizens of the United States.

There are sixteen native tribes, the principal of which are the Sanchos, on the coast from Black River to Pearl Kay Lagoon; the Valientes about the Chiriqui Lagoon, though these have suffered most from the tyranny of the Spaniards; and the Woolwas, on the Bluefields River. They are an intelligent but indolent race, all their wants being supplied by the abundant and spontaneous produce of the earth, its woods and waters, as appears from the accompanying Sketch.

The present Resident, Mr. Walker, has used great exertions to promote the welfare of this country, and open it to British commerce; but, partly on account of the failure of former ill arranged and mendacious schemes of colonisation, as yet, without great success. The citizens of the United States are also, as usual, making every effort to monopolise it; but the settlement of Mr. Watson promises well for the future, as does that of a body of Prussian emigrants who arrived last season.

The people are anxious for instruction of every kind, and a schoolmaster has been sent from Jamaica; but, although land has been appropriated by the will of the late King for the establishment of the Church of England, and both on the main and the Island of Ruatan they are willing to contribute largely towards the maintenance of a clergyman; they are as yet wanting the offices and sacraments of our holy religion. This deficiency is supplied, in so far as is possible, by Mr. Walker, who, with his lady, deserves the highest commendation for his labours to improve the moral and social condition of the people, and render the young King fit for the station to which, by the providence of God, he has been called.

THE WINTER FASHIONS.

(Abridged from "Berger's Ladies' Gazette of Fashion.")

The Winter Fashions have appeared in unusual variety and splendour. We never recollect so many novelties in every department of the toilette, as our Plates this month exhibit. Not only have we obtained patterns of all the most elegant Parisian costumes and of the dresses to be worn by the leaders of Ton among our own aristocracy, but we have also obtained a pattern of the winter dress of our beloved Queen. We will describe the Royal Promenade Dress; and then give our usual summary of the Fashions for the month. The Royal chapeau is of green satin, a close shape, the back ornamented with black lace draperies; a cluster of green ospreys are disposed at the bottom of the brim, on each side. The dress is a robe redingote of pink gros d'hiver, a high corsage, and tight sleeves. The Royal pardessus is of puce coloured velvet, lined with white satin, and trimmed with broad bands of ermine; it is a three-quarter length, high and close at the neck, with a large pelerine of a very novel form, for which we refer to our print. We now proceed with the *Modes* of the month:—

Chapeaux and Capotes, there is little alteration in the forms of; the brims are closer, and the crowns are rounded and low. Feathers are in favour for velvet chapeaux, with the addition of a black lace drapery or voilette. Satin, velours épinglé, and velvet, are the favourite materials.

Mantles, Mantelets, and Pardessues, we have so many elegant novelties in, that we hardly know which most to recommend. We have seen some very elegant mantles made in both black velvet and satin, and lined with ruby or emerald green satin; they are quilted all round; the corners of the fronts are rounded, and the sleeve is short, and trimmed with broad lace or deep fringe. The pelerine, rounded and tight over the arms, is terminated by long narrow ends, knotted in the centre of the waist, and descending in the style of the floating ends of a broad ceinture. Velvet, satin, and cashmere, keep their ground for pardessues.

Robes.—Silks, satins, and poplins, are the favourite materials; shot silks are also employed in some instances. The pelisse form is most in vogue. Many of those for the promenade are less trimmed than usual. Garnitures, in half-dress, are numerous, and we observe considerable novelty in those of passementerie. The franges Sevilliennes are employed both for redingotes and robes.

The forms of dresses have altered very little. Peignoirs of cashmere are much in favour for négligé. Silks and cashmere are employed far half-dress, trimmed with passementerie or velvet. Shot silks seem likely to resume their vogue, particularly for dinner dress, also taffetas. Moire and satin are in request for evening robes. The corsages low, deeply pointed, and the majority flat; the garnitures generally lace flounces. Others are trimmed with blonde lace of the colour of the robe. Bouillonnées of coloured blonde are also employed.

Coiffures.—Caps lose nothing of their vogue for dinner dress, and social parties. The most novel are of application de Bruxelles, trimmed with geraniums; others are of tulle, entirely boillonnée, without ribbons, flowers, or any ornament except floating barbes of tulle.

Passementerie will be much employed for evening coiffures, and dinners of ceremony. Among the most remarkable is the coiffure Isabelle, of silk net, trimmed with a chou and falling fringe; it is a mixture of a striking colour, with gold or silver.

Colours.—The new colours are purple, orange, puce, shades of grey, crimson, fawn, groseille, violet, and different shades of green.

Furs.—Sable and ermine lose nothing of their vogue. Mink comes next to sable. Imitation sable will also be used. Kolinski is also in vogue, and grey squirrel for young ladies. The Victorines have given way to the Queen's or riding boa; these are either cut to the shape of the neck, or made quite straight; both sides are of fur, and their length is about a yard and three quarters. They are worn with cuffs to correspond; muffs to match will appear later in the season. Very deep fur cardinals will also be very fashionable; they must be a yard deep at the least. The Witzchoura will be used as an evening wrap, but not to the exclusion of cloaks of a smaller size. Real or imitation ermine will always be adopted for the Witzchoura. Grey or fancy squirrel, Kolinski, and other furs for smaller cloaks.

LITERATURE.

The Doctor. Vol. VII. Longman and Co.

Soon after the publication of this work was commenced, its main drift was described to be "to strengthen and revive the genuine old English feelings and tastes." This oracular opinion was given some dozen years since; and, unquestionably, there has been during this interval a very considerable reaction in a kindred direction with the above. It is not worth while to attempt to define what portion "The Doctor" has contributed to this change; but, the dropping-in of a volume, occasionally, must, to some extent, have cherished the "feelings and tastes."

We are not quite sure that the right understanding of the work has been coextensive with its acceptation by the public. By some it has been regarded as immense trifling; and at this misconception the author hints, towards the middle of the present volume, when he says: "egregiously is he mistaken who supposes that this book consists of nothing more than

'Fond Fancy's scum, and dregs of scattered thought."

He then assures us that he has equally set before the reader *verba desiderii, rectitudinis, et veritatis;* and in the next page, he banteringly adds—"make up your mind to be Tremayned in this chapter."

By another set of readers the work has been reputed merely as an outpouring of lip-wisdom, a string of piquant quotation; the pure ore of the author's setting being evidently overlooked in such estimates of "the Doctor's" production. It is true that it is rich to excess in anecdotes of rare pleasantry and book-gossip, in quaint illustration of and ready acquaintance with the rarities of our olden literature; yet, the aptitude, ingenuity, and learning evinced in the application of this wealth is manifest in every page of "the Doctor's" own writing. Of the long trails of beautiful thought, the refined disquisitions, and the snatches of exquisite wit and humour, with which Southey has illuminated the volumes of "the Doctor," as well as the rich stores which he has garnered from rare and eloquent books, into these pages, the reader need scarcely be reminded; and so, lest he "Tremayne" we will proceed to show how far the present volume attains to the character of its predecessors.

The seventh, then, is the close of the work; and the editor, the worthy vicar of West Tarring, informs us that the present volume contains "all that it is thought advisable to publish of the Papers and Fragments for the Doctor, &c." From such discursive materials it will not be difficult to select a pleasant column. The first and second chapters are occupied by a disquisition upon Tongues, and the close of the latter, the author drily observes,

"It were better to be remembered as Baylehas remembered Petrus Carmilianus, because of the profound obscurity in which this pitiful poet was buried, than thus to be thought worthy of remembrance only for having produced a great deal that deserved to be forgotten. There is, or was, an officer of the Exchequer called Clericus Nihilorum, or Clerk of the Nihils. If there were a High Court of Literature with such an officer on its establishment, it would be no sinecure office for him in these, or in any days, to register the names of those authors who have written to no purpose, and the titles of those books from which nothing is to be learnt.

"More harm is done in public life by the reticence of well-informed men, than by the loquacity of sciolists; more by the timidity and caution of those who desire at heart the good of their country, than by the audacity of those who labour to overthrow its constitutions. It was said in the days of old, that 'a man full of words shall not prosper upon the earth.' *Mais nous avons changé tout cela.* Even in literature, a leafy style, if there be any fruit under the foliage, is preferable to a knotty one, however fine the grain. Whipt cream is a good thing; and better still when it covers and adorns that amiable combination of sweetmeats and ratafia cakes soaked in wine, to which Cowper likened his delightful poem, when he described the 'Task.'"

The two succeeding chapters are, in the staple, the inquiry of that good old divine, Adam Littleton—whether a man and himself were two, and his reply, that "every man is made up of three Egos."

The Equality of the Sexes, and the Importance of Woman, are the subjects of the two next chapters. The former question was much discussed some years since. The Doctor is a waverer; but, the mention of the first transgression enables him to quote "an Apology for Eve by one of her Daughters, yea, an Apology for her, and a Defence, showing that she acted meritoriously in eating the Apple." This lady's new heresy is that the Serpent tempted the Woman by assuring her that if she ate the Apple, she should not surely die, but be as Gods; hence, she makes the motive great, virtuous, and irresistible; the novelty consisting not in excusing the mother of mankind, but in representing her transgression as a great and meritorious act. Here are a few of the *curiosities* of the succeeding chapter:—

"There are, indeed, certain Rabbis who affirm that Eve was not taken out of Adam's side; but that Adam had originally been created with a tail (herein agreeing with the well-known theory of Lord Monboddo); and that, among the various experiments and improvements which were made in his form and organisation before he was finished, the tail was removed as an inconvenient appendage, and of the excrescence or superfluous part which was then lopt off, the Woman was formed.

"There is another legend relating to a like but even less worthy formation of the first helpmate, and this is also ascribed to the Rabbis. According to this mythos, the rib which had been taken from Adam was for a moment laid down, and in that moment a monkey stole it, and ran off with it full speed. An Angel pursued, and though not in league with the Monkey he could have been no good Angel; for, overtaking him, he caught him by the Tail, brought it maliciously back instead of the Rib, and of that Tail, was Woman made. What became of the Rib, with which the Monkey got clear off, 'was never to mortal known.' However, it is admitted that, on the whole, the received account of the two is the more probable. And after making this admission, he related an anecdote of Lady Jekyll, who was fond of puzzling herself and others with such questions as had been common enough a generation before her, in the days of the Athenian Oracle. She asked William Whiston of be-rhymed name and eccentric memory, one day, at her husband's table, to resolve a difficulty which occurred to her in the Mosaic account of the creation. 'Since it pleased God, Sir,' said she, 'to create the Woman out of the Man, why did he form her out of the rib rather than any other part?' Whiston scratched his head, and answered, 'Indeed, Madam, I do not know, unless it be that the rib is the most crooked part of the body.' 'There!' said her husband, 'you have it now: I hope you are satisfied!'

"The Hungarians, thinking it inimous for a nation to be governed by a woman—and yet perceiving the great advantage of preserving the succession, when the Crown fell to a female, they called her King Mary, instead of Queen. And queen Elizabeth, rather than be accounted of the feminine gender, claimed it as her prerogative to be of all three. 'A prime officer with a White Staff coming into her presence,' she willed him to bestow a place then vacant upon a person whom she named. 'May it please your Highness Madam,' said the Lord, 'the disposal of that place pertaineth to me by virtue of this White Staff.' 'True,' replied the Queen, 'yet I never gave you your office so absolutely, but that I still reserved myself of the *Quorum*.' 'Of the *Quarum*, Madam,' returned the Lord, presuming somewhat too far upon her favour. Whereat she snatched the staff in some anger out of his hand, and told him 'he should acknowledge her of the *Quorum Quarum Quorum*, before he had it again.'"

This banter upon Women leads to a fracas with the Gender Feminine; the following Ladies of the Stocking agreeing in the sentence of condemnation:—

"There is Mrs. Lapis Lazuli, and her daughter, Miss Ultramarine,—there is Mrs. Bluestone, the most caustic of female critics, and her friend, Miss Gentian, —Heaven protect me from the bitterness of her remarks,—there is Lady Turquoise, Lady Celestina Sky, the widow Bluebeard, Miss Mazarine, and that pretty creature, Serena Cerulean—it does me good to look on her, she is the blue-bell of the party. There is Miss Sapphire, Miss Priscilla Prussian, Mrs. Indigo, and the Widow Woad. And Heaven knows who beside."

We must, however, pass on, else we may fall under the anathema on small critics, "who never read anything so good; like town ducks, they dabble in the gutter, but never purify themselves in clear streams, nor take to the deep waters."

The metempsychosis in a descending scale as a scheme of punishment, is thus glanced at in the Doctor's pericranium:—

"He himself would have thought that no Judge ever pronounced a more just decision than the three Infernal Lord Chancellors of the dead would do, if they condemned his townsman the pettyfogger to skulk upon earth again as a polecat, creep into holes as an earwig, and be flattened again between the thumb nails of a London chambermaid, or exposed to the fatal lotion of Mr. Tiffin, bug-destroyer to his Majesty. It was fitting, he thought, that every keen sportsman, for once at least, should take the part of the inferior creature in those amusements of the field which he had followed so joyously, and that he should be winged in the shape of a partridge, run down in the form of a hare by the hounds, and Actaeonized in a stag; that the winner of a Welsh main should be the cock of one, and die of the wounds received in the last fight; that the merciless postmaster should become a postchorse at his own inn; and that they who have devised, or practised, or knowingly permitted any wanton cruelty, for the sake of pampering their appetites, should, in the next stage of their existence, feel in their own person the effect of those devices which, in their human state, they had only tasted."

The Children of the New Forest. By Capt. Marryat, R.N. Vol. 2. H. Hurst.

With this volume, Capt. Marryat has concluded his very attractive Story for young persons, the first portion of which we noticed some time since. The graphic vigour and freshness of the style is just calculated for youthful readers; the narrative is not over-loaded with descriptive gems; but the story is told with a *vivâ voce* character. Here is a specimen of a conversational digression, on the state of parties during the civil war:

"Excuse me, Mr. Hatherstone, but each day I find more to make me like you than I did the day before; at first I felt most inimical; now I only wonder how you can be leagued with the party you now are."

"Edward Armitage, I will now answer for myself and thousands more. You are too young a man to have known the cause of the insurrection, or, rather, opposition to the unfortunate King Charles. He attempted to make himself absolute, and to wrest the liberties from the people of England; that his warmest adherents will acknowledge. When I joined the party which opposed him, I little thought that matters would have been carried so far as they have been; I always considered it lawful to take up arms in defence of our liberties, but at the same time I equally felt that the person of the King was sacred."

"I have heard so, Sir."

"Yes, and in truth; for never did any people strive more zealously to prevent the murder of the King—for murder it was—than my relative Ashley Cooper and myself. So much so, indeed, as to have incurred not only the suspicion, but the ill will of Cromwell, who, I fear, is now making rapid advances towards that absolute authority for which the King has suffered, and which he would now vest in his own person. I considered that our cause was just; and had the power been left in the hands of those who would have exercised it with discretion and moderation, the King would even now have been on the throne, and the liberties of his subjects sacred; but it is easier to put a vast and powerful engine into motion than to stop it, and such has been the case in this unfortunate civil war. Thousands who took an active part against the King, will, when the opportunity is ripe, retrace their steps; but I expect that we have much to suffer before that time will come."

Although this passage is most convenient for quotation, it does not convey a correct idea of the scenes of hot pursuit, and peril, and desperate conflict,—the hair-breadth adventure and escape,—and the interesting glimpses of the character and manners of a very stirring period of our history—which this excellent tale will afford to the reader.

Classical Tales and Legends. By W. B. Flower, B.A. Simple Tale for the Young. The Adventures of a Fly. Burns.

These are three nice little books for young persons. The first contains some twenty short tales, chiefly from Ovid; with a few from Virgil, Livy, Thucydides, and others. We find among them Deucalion, or, the Flood; Phaeton; and others of Scripture origin; besides allegories and simple fables; the object of the author being to show how great use may be made of classical writers in the inculcation of sound principles. There is a graceful charm in mythological narrative which is very winning, and, with certain judgment, may be advantageously employed for educational purposes. It is not so full of improbabilities as is generally supposed; for, it is often difficult to determine at what time the mythology of a nation may be said to cease, and its history to begin. There is, moreover, a dramatic vein in these Tales—a sort of story-telling attractiveness which will render them favourites. The two other books take for their leading aim the teaching of humanity to animals—a rule which children cannot learn too early, either as regards their immediate advantage or future well-being.

The Guide to Happiness, containing the Rules of Universal Morality. Gardiner.

This "Guide" may be described as a logical arrangement or table of the Moral Duties in the Five Cardinal Relations of Life; as deduced from Sir Graves C. Haughton's "Chain of Causes." In other words, by a definite exposition of the injunctions of certain Texts, it chalks out a system of moral polity, which, to unthinking persons, may appear crotchety, but deserves to be received with respect. It shows that Virtue is the practice of what is due—1, To God. 2, To Yourself. 3, To your Country. 4, To your Neighbour (parents, wife, husband, offspring, friends, &c.). 5, To the Brute. The arrangement is, moreover, as the author terms it, "an abbreviated form of thought," which gives an instant grasp of the whole subject. The "Guide" itself is a mere folio page, mounted upon a board, the reverse bearing the Explanation; it may thus be placed on the wall of a study, a chamber, or public place—"that all who run may read." We will, however, illustrate the logical character of the "Guide:" thus, Virtue is the practice of what is due—

1. To God (as your Benefactor). Love—Gratitude—Fidelity—Devotion—Service.

Thus, the last word in the line is the real object to be attained. "What we owe to God, as our great Benefactor, is Service; now, without *Devotion* to His cause, this is unattainable; nor is Devotion possible without *Fidelity*; and, in a similar way, Fidelity to Him is impossible without *Gratitude*; and Gratitude for good done to ourselves, or others, by any benefactor, must have its root in *Love*. Now, the service we owe to God having its root in love, it can only be shown by upholding all the other moral duties."

As a popular adaption of "precept upon precept, line upon line," we regard this "Guide" as likely to lead to beneficial results. By placing it in a frequented situation, just as perpetual almanacks and date registers are hung up in counting-houses, the Rules here sought to be inculcated may induce healthy trains of thought without leading the mind into abstraction, or actually diverting it from the realities of life.

The Pharmaceutical Times. 2 vols. 4to. Carfrae.

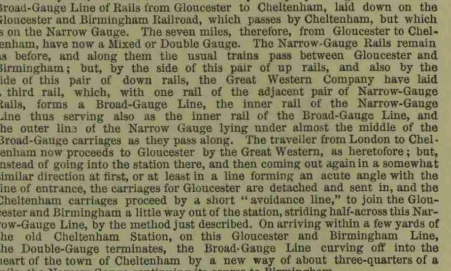
This valuable journal has reported from week to week, during the past year, the progress of Chemistry in its various novel applications to the arts, agriculture, and manufactures. In this great labour, the transactions of Continental Societies, and the researches of the most distinguished Chemists abroad, have been made available; whilst the advance of Chemical Science at home has been duly chronicled in these columns. The Journal likewise takes the aspect of "the folio of four pages;" for it has its "leaders" upon the position and prospects of Chemistry, from time to time, as well as upon questions of vital importance to the professors of the science. There is, likewise, a vast amount of information as to the progress of Pharmacy, properly so designated; besides reviews of new scientific publications, intelligence, &c.

The work is uniformly edited with discrimination and industry; the leading discoveries of the day, and the multiform applications of new substances, are, of course, the leading features of the journal; and, as in these times of universal enlightenment, every one is more or less sensible of the value of such information as to the above, we cordially recommend the work to our readers. With such means and appliances as it has hitherto proved itself to possess, it is not too much to award to the *Pharmaceutical Times* foremost rank among our journals of useful science. The work is printed in quarto, and when collected into half yearly volumes, forms a treasurable library record.

OPENING OF THE CHELTENHAM AND GREAT WESTERN DOUBLE-GAUGE RAILWAY.

On Saturday last, the Great Western Railway Company brought into use its Broad-Gauge Line of Rails from Gloucester to Cheltenham, laid down on the Gloucester and Birmingham Railroad, which passes by Cheltenham, but which is on the Narrow Gauge. The seven miles, therefore, from Gloucester to Cheltenham, have now a Mixed or Double Gauge. The Narrow-Gauge Rails remain as before, and along them the usual trains pass between Gloucester and Birmingham; but, by the side of this pair of up rails, and also by the side of this pair of down rails, the Great Western Company have laid a third rail, which, with one rail of the adjacent pair of Narrow-Gauge Rails, forms a Broad-Gauge Line, the inner rail of the Narrow-Gauge Line thus serving also as the inner rail of the Broad-Gauge Line, and the outer line of the Narrow Gauge lying under almost the middle of the Broad-Gauge carriages as they pass along. The traveller from London to Cheltenham now proceeds to Gloucester by the Great Western, as heretofore; but, instead of going into the station there, and then coming out again in a somewhat similar direction at first, or at least in a line forming an acute angle with the line of entrance, the carriages for Gloucester are detached and sent in, and the Cheltenham carriages proceed by a short "avoidance line," to join the Gloucester and Birmingham a little way out of the station, striding half-across this Narrow-Gauge Line, by the method just described. On arriving within a few yards of the old Cheltenham Station, on this Gloucester and Birmingham Line, the Double-Gauge terminates, the Broad-Gauge Line curving off into the heart of the town of Cheltenham by a new way of about three-quarters of a mile, the Narrow-Gauge continuing its course to Birmingham.

We annex an explanatory diagram:—



A B and B A represent the Double Line of the Narrow Gauge; these rails being 4 feet 8 inches apart. C C are the additional Rails laid on the outside, which, with B B, constitute the *Broad* Gauge, these rails being 7 feet apart.

The Line, as at once a Broad and Narrow Gauge Line, was opened to the public on Saturday, and a special train took down a large party to Cheltenham, the frequenters of which town will now be spared the annoyance of a break of gauge and change of carriages at Gloucester.

The New Helmet.—The new-pattern helmet recently approved of for Heavy Dragoons, of which we gave an Engraving in our last Number, and which we omitted by accident to state was invented by Messrs. Hawkes, Moseley, and Co., of Piccadilly (who have the orders for the immediate manufacture of them), is, although very handsome in its general appearance, chiefly remarkable for the scientific principle upon which it is constructed. Hitherto, what was pretty to the eye, and too often what was not so, has been capriciously adopted; but, in this case, the inventors appear to have succeeded in making a helmet that, when on the head, should be not only not unsightly, but be so perfectly balanced that no inconvenience is felt by the wearer when on a fiery charger; and in some cases, when it has been subjected to a severe trial, not one touch of the hand has been needed to keep it in position. The weight is considerably less than that of former helmets, which is no small advantage. The adoption of this helmet is, we believe, mainly due to the good taste of that highly-esteemed officer, his Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge, now commanding the Dublin garrison, who, seeing the inconveniences of the helmets at present in use, has successfully used his influence in effecting this change. The Prince has likewise very recently effected an important change in the cap of the 17th Lancers, of which His Royal Highness is Colonel.

Surgical.—The administration of the vapour of ether, to mitigate or prevent suffering in surgical operations, is coming into general use, even in the country districts. This week a female suffering from cancer of the breast, at Chertsey, in Surrey, in the practice of Messrs. Smith and Eady, had the diseased part removed by the latter gentleman, under the influence of the vapour, exhibited by means of the improved apparatus of Dr. Snow, of University College, without the slightest manifestation of pain, which has hitherto been, in cases of this kind, most severe. She was not aware that the operation had been performed, and expressed her gratitude in the strongest terms. The case is going on admirably.

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